

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 025133

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, BR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMERICAN PRIVATE CITIZEN

REF: STATE 20456

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. FOLLOWING RETURN TO WASHINGTON, RUBIN REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT RESULTS OF HIS JANUARY DISCUSSIONS IN BRAZIL. ON JANUARY 25 HE CALLED ON GENERAL GOLBERY WHO ASKED HIM TO MEET WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR VASCO LETAO DA CUNHA, TO MAINTAIN SYMMETRY OF PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH SIDES.

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GOLBERY GAVE IMPRESSION THAT CONTENT OF EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH RUBIN WAS SHARED WITH BOTH PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. ON JANUARY 26 RUBIN HAD LENGTHY (ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR) MEETING WITH DA CUNHA IN RIO IN WHICH HE RECAPITULATED SUGGESTIONS TO GOLBERY AND REFERRED TO UNCERTAINTY OF

BECKER NOZZLE ENRICHMENT PROCESS. DA CUNHA MOSTLY LISTENED, BUT EMPHASIZED BRAZIL'S CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE ENERGY SOURCES.

3. AFTER GOING TO SEE SILVEIRA IN BRAZILIA, DA CUNHA MET AGAIN WITH RUBIN ON JANUARY 29 AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS, GIVING HIM IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOLBERY AND SILVEIRA ON THIS ISSUE:

-- BRAZIL MUST HAVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND WONDERES WHETHER IT CAN RELY ON US PROMISES OF FUEL SUPPLY.

-- BRAZIL DOES NOT INTEND TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS; ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES ARE UNDER SAFEGUARDS. THE US SHOULD BE NO MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PRODUCTION OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR MATERIALS IN BRAZIL THAN IN CANADA OR THE NETHERLANDS.

-- MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US IS CRUCIAL. WITH GOOD WILL, THE CURRENT CRISIS OVER NUCLEAR ISSUES CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY SURMOUNTED.

4. RUBIN REPORTED THAT HE IN TURN EMPHASIZED THAT US WAS SEEKING NO COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE AND INDEED THAT PROPOSALS OF GUARANTEED FUEL SUPPLY COULD PERMIT GOB TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAD ACHIEVED BOTH INDEPENDENCE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS SITUATION CONFRONTING BRAZIL. HE CITED SYMINGTON AMENDMENT, STRONG US CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS AND NEED TO AVOID OPEN CONFRONTATION.

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5. WHEN RUBIN PURSUED POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT OF SENSITIVE ELEMENTS OF FRG/BRAZIL NUCLEAR DEAL, DA CUNHA INDICATED THAT BRAZIL AS WELL AS US MIGHT WISH TO BUY SOME TIME TO PERMIT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITIES RAISED BY US.

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Message Attributes

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